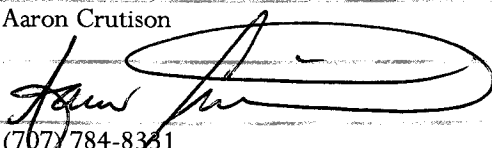

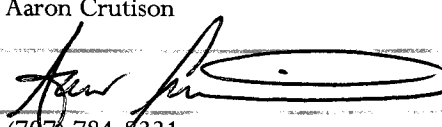


RECEIVED MAR 28 2015

California – Child and Family Services Review Signature Sheet

For submittal of: CSA ☐ SIP ☐ Progress Report ☒

County	SOLANO
SIP Period Dates	January 16, 2013 – January 15, 2018
Outcome Data Period	
County Child Welfare Agency Director	
Name	Aaron Crutison
Signature*	
Phone Number	(707) 784-8331
Mailing Address	275 Beck Ave. MS 5-230, Fairfield, CA 94533
County Chief Probation Officer	
Name	Christopher Hansen
Signature*	
Phone Number	(707) 784-4803
Mailing Address	Solano County Probation Department 475 Union Ave., Fairfield, CA 94533
Public Agency Designated to Administer CAPIT and CBCAP	
Name	Aaron Crutison
Signature*	
Phone Number	(707) 784-8331
Mailing Address	275 Beck Ave. Fairfield, CA 94533
Board of Supervisors (BOS) Signature	
BOS Approval Date	
Name	
Signature*	

Mail the original Signature Sheet to:

*Signatures must be in blue ink

Children's Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau
Attention: Bureau Chief
Children and Family Services Division
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 8-12-91
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact Information

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Probation Agency	Name	Lisa Wamble, Probation Services Manager
	Agency	Solano County Probation Department
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	Mailing Address	Solano County Probation Department 475 Union Ave. Fairfield, CA 94533
Public Agency Administering CAPT and CBCAP (if other than Child Welfare)	Name	
	Agency	
	Phone & E-mail	
	Mailing Address	
CAPT Liaison	Name	Debbie Powell, Administrator
	Agency	Solano County Child Welfare Services
	Phone & E-mail	(707) 784-8427 powelddb@solanocounty.com
	Mailing Address	275 Beck Ave. MS 5-230, Fairfield, CA 94533
CBCAP Liaison	Name	Debbie Powell, Administrator
	Agency	Solano County Child Welfare Services
	Phone & E-mail	(707) 784-8427 powelddb@solanocounty.com
	Mailing Address	275 Beck Ave. MS 5-230, Fairfield, CA 94533
PSSF Liaison	Name	Debbie Powell, Administrator
	Agency	Solano County Child Welfare Services
	Phone & E-mail	(707) 784-8427 powelddb@solanocounty.com
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California - Child and Family Services Review

Solano County Annual SIP Progress Report

[JANUARY – DECEMBER 2015]



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FIVE-YEAR SIP CHARTATTACHMENT 1

Introduction

Solano County developed a five-year System Improvement Plan (SIP) in 2012. This is the annual progress report that reevaluates and analyses our current performance to determine whether the SIP strategies are achieving the desired results.

Solano County is a mid-size county located midway between Sacramento and San Francisco along the Interstate 80 corridor. Solano County population ranking is 21 out of 58 counties with a total population of over 413,000. The county covers over 909 square miles, including over 84 square miles of water and over 675 square miles of rural land area. The County has seven incorporated cities including Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield (the County seat), Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville, and Vallejo. The majority of residents reside within these cities and the majority of County facilities are currently located in the incorporated areas. The population is racially and culturally diverse, including a large military population.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES:

The mission of the Solano County Child Welfare Division is to protect children from abuse and neglect by strengthening their families or finding safe, permanent homes so that they can grow into healthy productive adults. Child Welfare Services has 132 authorized positions of which 93 are social workers and social work supervisors. The county provides the full range of child welfare services including adoption.

Child Welfare Services receives an average of 308 reports per month for allegations of child abuse and neglect and investigates an average of 182 reports. As of December 6, 2015, Child Welfare Services has 509 children in out of home placement including 93 children in guardian homes and 13 young adults in supportive transition arrangements. The quarterly trends in the past two years show an increase in children in the Family Reunification program and a small decrease in children in the Family Maintenance. Please see chart below. This trend is concerning and Solano County will continue to assess in an effort to better understand the complex factors contributing to this increase.

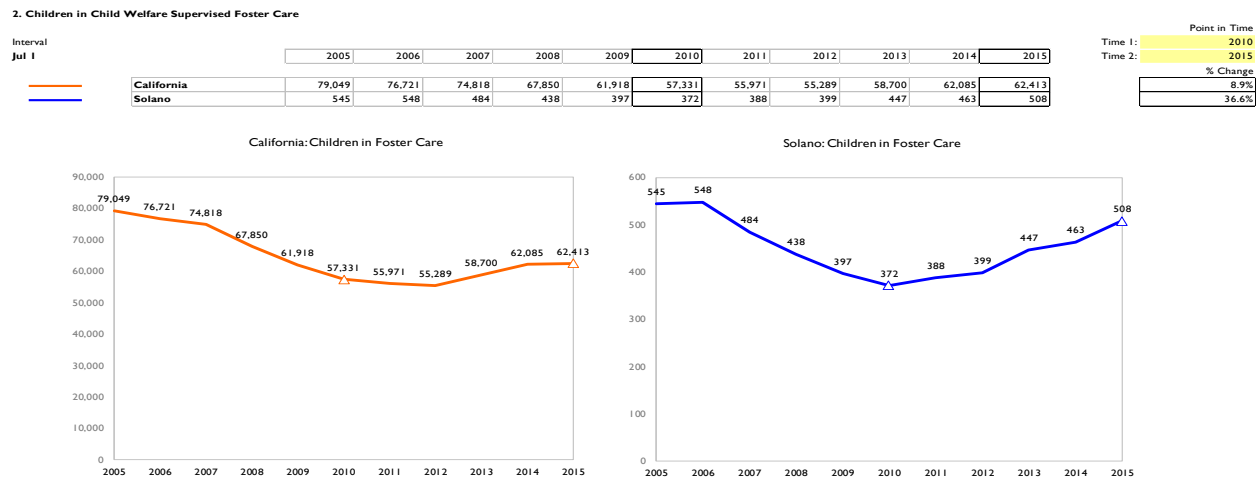
California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)
University of California at Berkeley
Caseload by Service Component Type
Agency Type: Child Welfare
Solano

Service Component Type	Point In Time							
	1-Jan-14	1-Apr-14	1-Jul-14	1-Oct-14	1-Jan-15	1-Apr-15	1-Jul-15	1-Oct-15
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Emergency Response	10	16	31	13	7	19	6	7
No Placement FM	48	39	40	41	44	39	39	36
Post-Placement FM	63	56	53	50	71	67	50	49
Family Reunification	149	151	161	170	154	162	182	203
Permanent Placement	276	280	264	268	263	290	284	285
Supportive Transition	33	39	44	43	55	55	58	53
Total	579	581	593	585	594	632	619	633

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 3 Extract.

Program version: 2.00 Database version: 691499AB

Solano County has also continued to see a higher rise in children in out of home placement from the California trends. Please see chart below.



Notes: These data include child-welfare-supervised foster children (and exclude those supervised by probation and other agencies). These data do not include children who are in voluntary foster care. See endnotes for additional information.
http://ccsr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx

PROBATION:

The mission of Solano County Probation Department is to reduce recidivism through positive behavior change. Probation continues to address behavior change by assessing and addressing the specific risks and needs of youth. The Department utilizes the Juvenile Assessment Inventory System (JAIS) tool to identify treatment needs and risk factors with the goal of helping the youth be successful and strengthening the family unit. The Juvenile Division provides supervision services to approximately 500 youth and consists of 37 officers, 4 of which are assigned to supervise youth in out of home care. The Probation Department utilizes an individualized case plan that is developed with the input from the youth, parent/guardian and the Probation Officer and is updated a minimum of every 6 months. Services are provided in the least restrictive setting possible however, some youth are placed in a group home to address treatment needs that cannot be addressed within the community and/or in the home of the parent/guardian.

SIP Progress Narrative

STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION**CHILD WELFARE SERVICES:**

Child Welfare Services (CWS) has met regularly with CDSS to review outcomes and to discuss strategies. CWS works collaboratively with service providers in the county to coordinate services for our families. CWS meets quarterly with Foster Family Agencies, the Foster Kinship Care Education Advisory Committee, Title IVE Training Providers, Family Resource Centers, CASA and Solano County Mental Health Services. CWS also conducted meetings with stakeholders to get feedback on outcome performance including CWS staff and FFA providers.

PROBATION:

Probation continues to work with minors, families and various service providers to meet the needs of the families we serve, improve current outcome measures and complete identified strategies. Probation continues to focus on the strategies identified by the stakeholders from the survey conducted during the PQCR process. The stakeholders included representatives from the Juvenile Court, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, youth and parents. During the second year of the Self Improvement Plan (SIP), Probation continued to focus on the implementation and development of strategies to increase our overall performance. These strategies included enhanced training in case plan development, a review of current programs and services offered in the Department, developing an internal list of service providers in the community, and developing a tracking system of referrals to determine if services are being used appropriately.

CURRENT PERFORMANCE TOWARDS SIP IMPROVEMENT GOALS

On October 10, 2014, The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued a new Federal Register notice (79 FR 61241) that notified states of the final plan to replace the data outcome measures used to determine a state's substantial conformity with Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. On May 13, 2015, ACF published a correction to this Final Rule in the Federal Registry (80 FR 27263). The measures are to ensure safety, permanency and well-being of children involved in their respective systems. The previous 17 federal data outcome measures have been replaced, updated, or eliminated to produce a total of seven new data outcome measures. The counties are required to report on the new outcome measures due to the state after October 1, 2015. The previous measures in the SIP have been replaced to conform to these changes as reflected below.

CURRENT PERFORMANCE TOWARDS SIP IMPROVEMENT GOALS

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES:

Child Welfare Services has continued to experience a high turnover in the Social Worker III classification with 13 staff leaving the county this calendar year. Although we have been authorized additional positions, we currently have 15 vacancies out of 71 Social Worker III or a 21% vacancy rate. Twelve (12) Social Worker IIIs have started since the beginning of 2015 with an additional eighteen (18) starting in 2014. These new workers comprise 54% of our current workforce. New workers require additional training and close supervision. They need time to become aware of the community resources and to develop networks with our service and care providers. Staff changes also result in families experiencing a change in the assigned social worker and additional time to engage families. These staffing concerns have a direct impact on all of our outcomes and are to be considered in the analysis of our performance on all outcomes.

Priority Outcome Measure:

For the new Federal CFSR 3, Safety Measure S2 measures all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation during a 12-month reporting period, that were victims of another substantiated maltreatment allegation within 12 months of their initial report. The National Standard is 9.1%.

Baseline Performance:

According to the October 2012 (Q2 2012) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 of the 671 children who had a substantiated allegation, 67 had a recurrence of maltreatment. This is a 10% rate of recurrence of maltreatment.

Target Improvement Goal:

The County will improve performance on this measure by maintaining consistency below 9.1%.

Current Performance:

According to the October 2015 (Q2 2015) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, of the 404 children who had a substantiated allegation, 37 had a recurrence of maltreatment in the next 12 months. This is a 9.2% rate of recurrence of maltreatment.

Data Analysis:

Solano County is very close to meeting the federal standard. As seen in the chart below the number of children with a recurrence of maltreatment has declined in FY11/12 and FY12/13 with a small increase in FY13/14.

California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)

University of California at Berkeley

California Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau

Recurrence of maltreatment

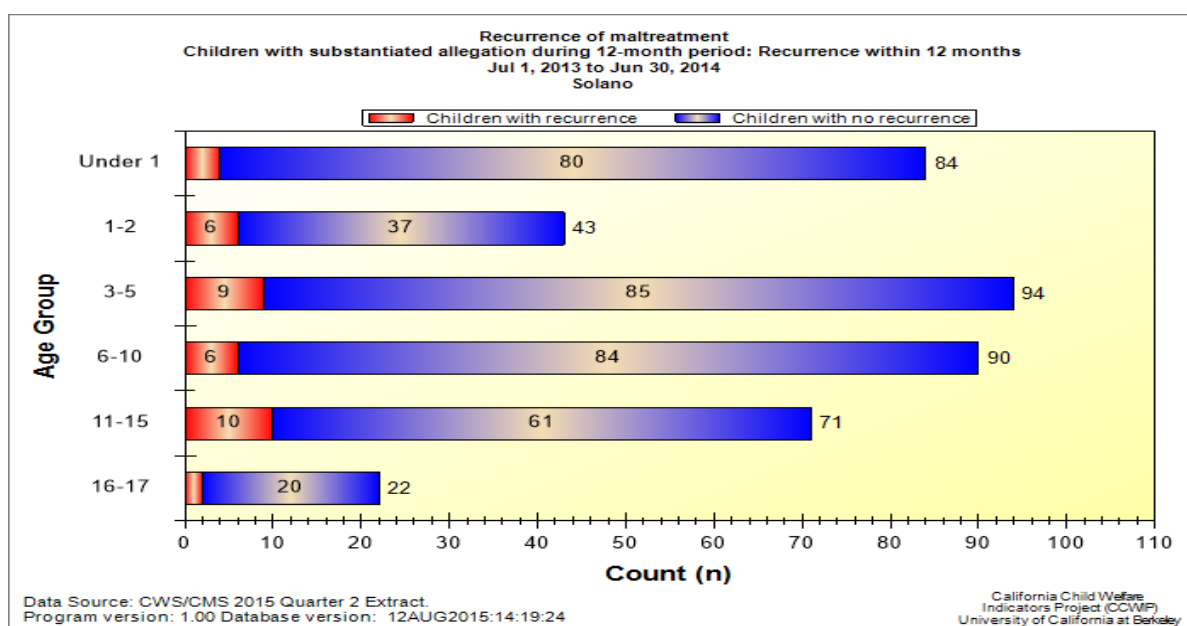
Children with substantiated allegation during 12-month period: Recurrence within 12 months

COUNT					
	JUL2009- JUN2010	JUL2010- JUN2011	JUL2011- JUN2012	JUL2012- JUN2013	JUL2013- JUN2014
	n	n	n	n	n
Children with recurrence	63	67	44	27	37
Children with no recurrence	531	604	483	482	367
Total	594	671	527	509	404

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 2 Extract.

Program version: 1.00 Database version: 12AUG2015:14:19:24

The recurrence of neglect in Solano County is the highest for our children 3 to 5 and 11 to 15 years of age as seen in the chart below.



There are many factors contributing to this outcome such as data entry around new disclosures, the lack of funding for services and the quality of service providers in the community to address the safety issues, the reduction in Voluntary Family Maintenance Services and the continued challenges of engaging parents and developing family support networks.

Child Welfare Services is holding monthly trainings on community resources to keep social workers informed. We have implemented Safety Organized Practice and are working hard to support the families in identifying their support network through Family Team Meetings. With the implementation of case reviews and the building of a CQI unit, the county will be better at analyzing this measure to determine the most effective strategies to support no recurrence of maltreatment.

Priority Outcome Measure:

For the new Federal CFSR 3, Permanency Measure P1 measures all children who entered foster care in the 12-month, that were discharged to permanency within 12 months. The National Standard is 40.5%

Baseline Performance:

According to the October 2012 (Q2 2012) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011, of the 204 children who entered care, 114 children exited to permanency. This is a 55.9% rate of permanency within 12 months.

Target Improvement Goal:

The County will maintain performance on this measure at or above 40.5%.

Current Performance:

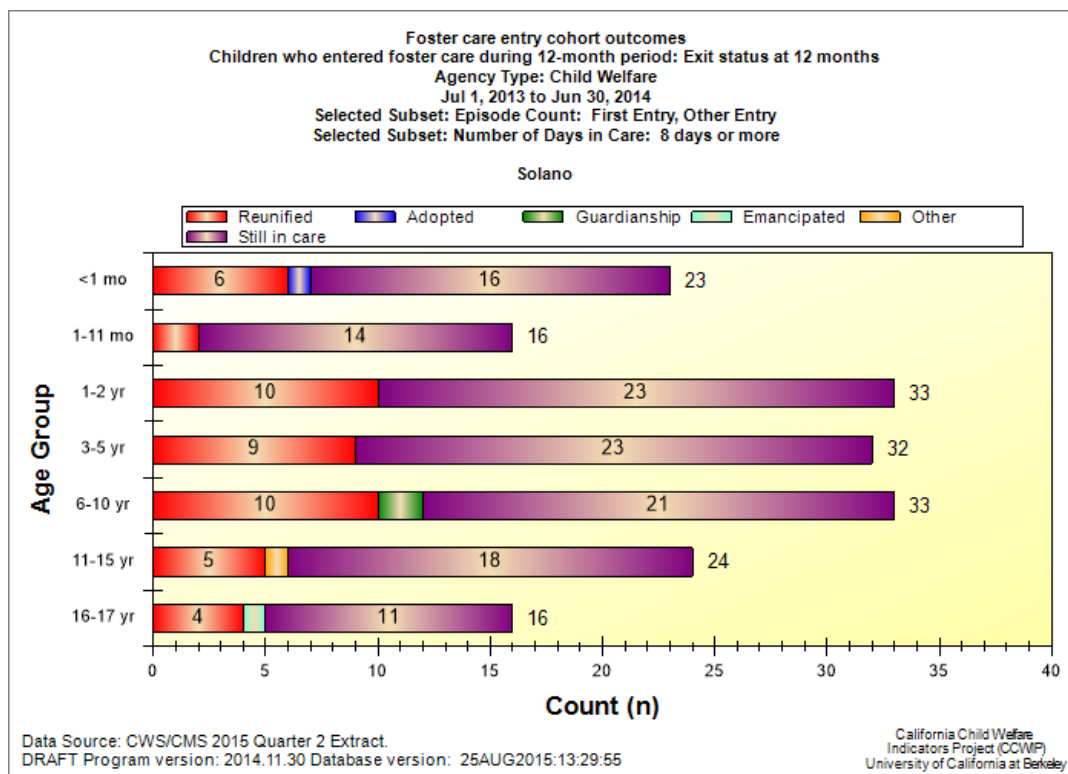
According to the October 2015 (Q2 2015) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, of the 177 children who entered care, 49 children exited to permanency. This is a 27.7% rate of permanency within 12 months.

Data Analysis:

Solano County has a lack of placement resources to address children with challenging behaviors. Solano County needs increased concurrent planning and family finding efforts. There are other contributing factors to this measure including delays in the court process due to contested hearings and court continuances, the influence of AB12, and inter-county transfers that are beyond timelines.

Solano County has a low number of children reunifying in the first twelve (12) months. Again due to new staff in the Dependency Investigation program there has been a concentration on learning the position and completing investigations. Social Workers are providing services but are unable to provide intensive services with frequent contacts necessary to support the early return of children to their families prior to the Dispositional Hearing.

Solano County is also challenged in obtaining guardianship or adoption for children in the first twelve (12) months as seen in the graph below.



In a review of this measure from 2009 until 2014, we show an inconsistency in performance. We were meeting the standards 2010 and 2011 but have been decreasing in recent years. We also show the same inconsistency when compared to the California rates. Please see charts below.

From:	7/1/2009	7/1/2010	7/1/2011	7/1/2012	7/1/2013
To:	6/30/2010	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	6/30/2013	6/30/2014
Children with exit to permanency (%)	35.8	55.9	43.4	36.3	27.7
National Goal (%)	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5
Children with entries (n)	162	204	175	215	177
Children with exit to permanency (n)	58	114	76	78	49
National Standard (n)	66	83	71	88	72

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 2 Extract.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/P1.aspx

For Children Who Entered in 12-month Period.

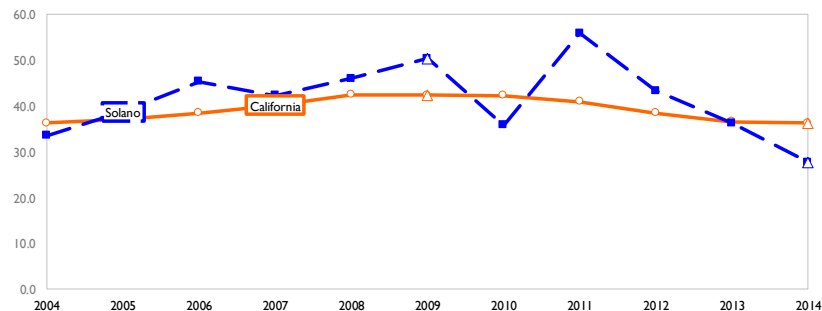
Interval
Jul 1-Jun 30



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
California	36.3	37.2	38.5	40.2	42.5	42.4	42.3	41.0	38.5	36.6	36.3
Solano	33.6	38.8	45.4	42.3	46.0	50.4	35.8	55.9	43.4	36.3	27.7

Yr. Ending*	
Time 1:	2009
Time 2:	2014
% Change	
	-14.4%
	-45.0%

California and Solano: Percent discharged to permanency within 12 months



Note: These data are limited to cases in which a child spent eight days or more in foster care. An exit to reunification may or may not correspond with termination of jurisdiction. Exits to reunification remain as open court cases if families are receiving court ordered post-placement family maintenance services. See endnotes for additional information.

*Listed years represent end year of entry cohort interval. For example, interval Jul 1-Jun 30 and year 2006 represents the Jul 1, 2005-Jun 30, 2006 entry cohort.

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/P1.aspx

CWS has recently allocated additional resources in both the Dependency Investigations and Adoptions unit to support increased services and concurrent planning. Solano County finalized forty-seven (47) adoptions in 2015. We have also allocated additional social workers to support Intensive Family Reunification Services, which include additional parent contacts and individualized services delivery utilizing the SOP model. In 2015, Solano County provided 215 children with Intensive FM/FR Services. The Intensive Family Reunification workers have also increased efforts to provide services to non-custodial parents to support reunification.

Priority Outcome Measure:

For the new Federal CFSR 3, Permanency Measure P5 measures all children served in care in the 12 month period the rate of placement moves per day in foster care. The National Standard is 4.12%

Baseline Performance:

According to the October 2012 (Q2 2012) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012 there were 27,160 foster care days for children with entries and there were 195 placement moves. The rate of placement moves (per 1,000 days) was 7.17%.

Target Improvement Goal:

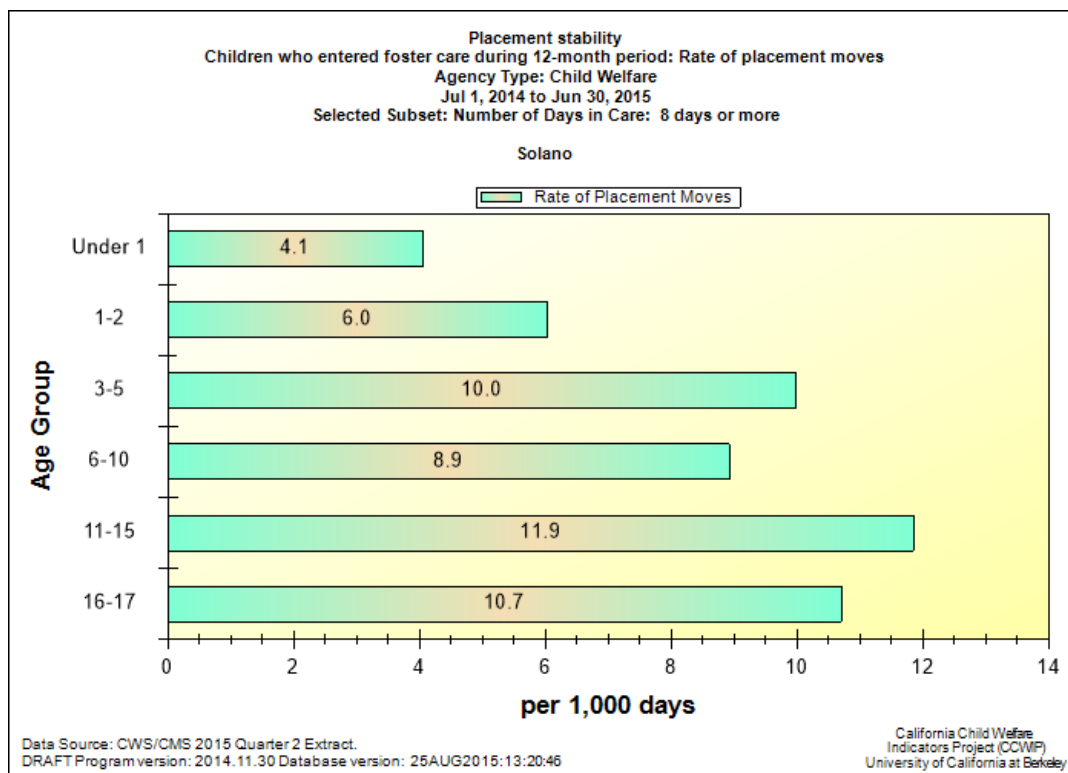
The County will improve performance on this measure to be at or below 4.12%.

Current Performance:

According to the October 2015 (Q2 2015) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, there were 31,109 foster care days for children with entries and there were 267 placement moves. The rate of placement moves (per 1,000 days) was 8.58%.

Data Analysis:

Solano County sees the highest number of placement moves per child in the age range of 11 to 17 years of age demonstrated in the chart below.



Solano County has traditionally struggled in this outcome as seen in the chart below, with a recent rise in the number of placement moves.

From:	7/1/2010	7/1/2011	7/1/2012	7/1/2013	7/1/2014
To:	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	6/30/2013	6/30/2014	6/30/2015
Rate of placement moves (per 1,000 days)	4.76	7.17	6.06	6.66	8.58
National Goal (per 1,000 days)	4.12	4.12	4.12	4.12	4.12
Foster care days (n)	24,962	27,160	35,118	26,249	31,109
Placement moves (n)	119	195	213	175	267
National Standard (n)	103	112	145	109	129

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 2 Extract.

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/P5.aspx

Solano County has limitations in many areas impacting placement stability. We currently have a contract to provide Emergency Foster Home placements for five days that automatically results in a change of placement for children and youth. The plan was for the five day placement to provide the county with time to identify and approve a relative caregiver or find an appropriate home to meet the child's needs. Unfortunately, we have lacked resources to consistency complete family finding, all the necessary steps in time for an emergency relative placement and to expedite the complete relative assessment approval. We have a lack of state licensed foster

homes with only 6 of the currently licensed 27 homes taking placements. Solano County is highly dependent on the Foster Family Agency network and frequently there are not enough homes in county and it necessary to move children when a placement becomes available in the county. Stakeholders report that often times the Foster Parents lack the necessary training, skills and supports including respite/childcare to provide care for our children, especially those with challenging behaviors.

CWS has allocated additional resources in the Adoptions unit to support concurrent planning and to identify appropriate placement matches. CWS has continued to recruit social workers to staff all program areas. CWS has implemented the Approved Relative Care funding to provide additional financial assistance for relatives. CWS submitted an application and received funding to recruit, retain and support caregivers. CWS has identified strategies such as the return of foster care licensing responsibilities back to the county, development of foster care recruitment activities, extreme-recruitment style family finding and engagement, increased utilization of the Special Care Increment and enhanced support for relative caregivers including monetary support for transportation, clothing, extracurricular activities etc. CWS is beginning the planning for implementation of the Resource Family Approval process. CWS has also completed the Request for Proposals process for a new Emergency Foster Care contract and has revised the scope of services for next fiscal year to include creative strategies to care for our youth with high end needs.

PROBATION:

Priority Outcome Measure: P.1 (Previously C1.3)

Reunification within 12 months (6 Month Entry Cohort), of all children entering foster care for the first time in the 6-month period who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percentage was discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home.

National Standard: 48.4%

Baseline Performance:

According to the January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012 Quarterly Data Report (Quarters 3 and 4 of FY2011-12), of the minors who remained in care more than 8 days, 33.3% (ages 11-15) and 50% (ages 16-17) were reunified within 12 months for a 44.4% reunification rate; just slightly below the National Standard.

Target Improvement Goal:

The County will maintain performance on this measure at 50% reunification rate for all age groups.

Current Performance:

According to the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 Quarterly Data Report (Quarter 2 of FY2013-14), of the youth who remained in care more than 8 days, 51.5% were reunified within 12 months. This is slightly above the National Standard. According to the Quarterly Data Report measuring the period from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, 12 of the 33 youth were in care more than 12 months.

Data Analysis:

Probation Officers review all relative documents and verbal information provided which includes the youth, family history and current circumstances for inclusion into the case planning process. This information along with an assessment of the youth is used to develop an individualized and targeted case plan to meet the needs of the youth and their family. The family is encouraged to remain involved in the treatment plan objectives to increase the timeliness of reunification. Additionally, Probation Officers work closely with the various group home providers to make sure they meet the identified treatment needs of the youth with a goal of returning the youth home as soon as possible.

Priority Outcome Measure: P 3 (Previously C3.3) (Now Eliminated) In care 3 years or longer (Emancipated/age 18) is no longer a Federal data measure.

Current Performance:

Although C3.3 data measure was eliminated as an individual federal measure Probation continued to have youth in care 3 years or longer, as a result of special treatment needs. When a longer treatment period is needed, reconnection with the family is difficult depending upon the reason for removal. However, Probation has noticed an increased number of youth electing to participate in AB12 services, as Non Minor Dependents. Probation only has two Placement officers to address the increased caseload numbers. As a result Probation was able to add a group counselor on a temporary basis to assist with foster youth and NMD's contacts.

STATUS OF STRATEGIES

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES:

STRATEGY 1: IMPROVE AND INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WHO ARE IMPACTED BY CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT AND EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF THOSE SERVICES.

ANALYSIS

In-Home Mental Health Services:

In Fiscal Year 14/15 Aldea In-Home Mental Health (IHMH) Program served twenty-seven (27) children and twenty-nine (29) parents. Aldea saw an increase in referrals during the fiscal year and overall can serve 32 families. The program uses the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) to assess the family's progress. Since January 1, 2015, Aldea has received a total of thirty-four (34) referrals. They are currently serving seven (7) families, four (4) families successfully completed the program, five (5) families partially completed the program, five (5) families completed the intake only, nine (9) families did not respond and there are four (4) families currently pending intake.

Service Broker Services:

Children's Network has received thirty-eight (38) referrals from Child Welfare Services from January 1 to September 30, 2015. The referrals are for families who had an investigated

referral that is closing but who have identified needs for support services. Children's Network has continued capacity to serve more families. Of those referrals, 4 families did not respond to outreach efforts, 17 families were contacted a minimum of 3 times and declined services, 14 families received services and were satisfied with services, 3 families are pending services. The contract with Children's Network was revised this year for services to include a maximum of four contacts by the provider and 50% of the families to receive home visits. It is hoped that the changes with increased outreach will result in more families engaging in services.

ACTION STEP STATUS

In-Home Mental Health Services:

Solano County developed and completed a Request for Proposal process on October 24, 2012 for in home mental health services. Aldea was selected to provide the services to include family counseling, parenting education, domestic violence services and other mental health needs. The contract was negotiated and approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 12, 2013.

Aldea Children and Family Services has provided intensive home-based services for families involved with CWS or Juvenile Probation to address the children's and families' short and long term behavioral health care needs. The service is for the entire family including an assessment of the child, parents and family resulting in an appropriate treatment plan to address issues related to anger management, domestic violence, parenting relationships and substance abuse. Aldea uses the Functional Family Therapy (FFT) for families referred who are in the Family Maintenance Program and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) model for families referred who are in the Family Reunification Program. The focus of this program is for families in the Family Maintenance Program that are not served through the Pathways to Well-being Initiative.

Service Broker Services:

Solano County developed and completed a Request for Proposal process on October 24, 2012 for service broker services. Children's Network was selected to provide the services to include providing support to families accessing available resources including a "warm handoff". The contract was negotiated and approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 12, 2013.

Children's Network has provided county wide services to clients referred by either Child Welfare Services or Probation. Services are to assist individuals and families in accessing identified community based services that will best serve the family's needs. Services include informing and educating on available resources, connecting the family with services, identifying transportation resources, accessing employment and housing resources and assisting in completing necessary applications.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

Contractor's Meetings occurred on June 4, 2015 and November 12, 2015 with all Child Welfare Services contract providers and Child Welfare Services. Information discussed included upcoming initiatives, increasing referrals and communication, OCAP reporting requirements, quarterly reporting requirements, claims and invoices and networking. In addition, managers met regularly with contract providers to discuss client services and referral processes.

In-Home Mental Health Services:

Aldea provides Functional Family Therapy which includes a focus on the importance of the child-parent relationship, as well as model fidelity measures using direct entry into the FFT national database. Progress is measured by direct observation by the therapist in the home, self-reports by client and parent and CWS social worker. Aldea also provides an aggregate report, on a quarterly basis, detailing the number of clients served, referral source, the client outcome and demographics of children served. In addition to the contractor's meetings, Aldea met with staff on 6/30/15, 9/21/15 and 11/16/15. Aldea presented at a CWS Section meeting on 1/8/15.

Service Broker Services:

Children's Network provides on a quarterly basis an aggregate report detailing the number of referrals received and the outcome of the referrals. The agency also provides a fiscal year report documenting clients served, demographic information, satisfaction with the services and the results of the pre and post surveys. The goal is 60% of the families served will access community services or improve on their knowledge of community resources. In addition to the contractor's meeting the agency also attended a collaborative meeting on 4/14/15 and 11/10/15 and presented at a CWS Section meeting on the referral process.

STRATEGY 2: EXPAND ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG (AOD) SERVICES FOR PARENTS INVOLVED WITH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.

ANALYSIS

Substance Abuse Services:

In fiscal year 2014/15, Solano County Substance Abuse Services (SCSAS) provided substance abuse services to forty-eight (48) parents. The program continued to have difficulties with engaging parents to enter into treatment. As of July 1, 2015, Child Welfare Services terminated the previous contract. We began negotiations with Healthy Partnerships and Anka to provide outreach to complete community based substance abuse assessments, recommend the level of treatment needed, and link parents to treatment within the community. The contracts were executed on October 1, 2015 and CWS is working on increasing referrals to these new programs.

Service Broker Services:

Children's Network has received thirty-eight (38) referrals from Child Welfare Services from January 1 to September 30, 2015. The referrals are for families who had an investigated referral that is closing but who have identified needs for support services. Children's Network has continued capacity to serve more families. Of those referrals, 4 families did not respond to outreach efforts, 17 families were contacted a minimum of 3 times and declined services, 14 families received services and were satisfied with services, 3 families are pending services. The contract with Children's Network was revised this year to for services to include a maximum of four contacts by the provider and 50% of the families to receive home visits. It is hoped that the changes with increased outreach will result in more families engaging in services.

ACTION STEP STATUS

Substance Abuse Services:

Child Welfare Services has now contracted with Healthy Partnerships and ANKA Behavioral Health to outreach services to engage parents in substance abuse treatment services for parents with Court ordered Family Reunification plans.

Service Broker Services:

Solano County developed and completed a Request for Proposal process on October 24, 2012 for service broker services. Children's Network was selected to provide the services to include providing support to families accessing available resources including a "warm handoff". The contracted was negotiated and approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 12, 2013.

Children's Network has provided county wide services to clients referred by either Child Welfare Services or Probation. Services are to assist individuals and families in accessing identified community based services that will best serve the family's needs. Services include informing and educating on available resources, connecting the family with services, identifying transportation resources, accessing employment and housing resources and assisting in completing necessary applications.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

Contractor's Meetings occurred on June 4, 2015 and November 12, 2015 with all Child Welfare Services contract providers and Child Welfare Services. Information discussed included upcoming initiatives, increasing referrals and communication, OCAP reporting requirements, quarterly reporting requirements, claims and invoices and networking. In addition, managers met regularly with contract providers to discuss client services and referral processes.

Substance Abuse Services:

The new Substance Abuse Services Contractors will provide on a quarterly basis summary data including the number of clients served, the number of assessments completed, and the number of clients receiving outpatient services.

Service Broker Services:

Children's Network provides on a quarterly basis an aggregate report detailing the number of referrals received and the outcome of the referrals. The agency also provides a fiscal year report documenting clients served, demographic information, satisfaction with the services and the results of the pre and post surveys. The goal is 60% of the families served will access community services or improve on their knowledge of community resources. In addition to the contractor's meeting the agency also attended a collaborative meeting on 4/14/15 and 11/10/15 and presented at a CWS Section meeting on the referral process.

STRATEGY 3: PROVIDE ADOPTION PROMOTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO INCREASE PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN IN SOLANO COUNTY. PROVIDE AN EVIDENCE BASED PROGRAM TO PROMOTE AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES TO NURTURE LIFETIME COMMITMENTS.

ANALYSIS

In FY2014/15 the Aspiranet REACH Program provided 13 parents and children crisis intervention/counseling services, 63 children and parents with case management services, 30 children and families with peer support services, and 418 children and parents with information and referrals. From January 1, 2015 through December 1, 2015, 69 families were referred from CWS. Aspiranet has the capacity to serve more families and continues its efforts to collaborate with other community agencies to connect with adoptive families. Aspiranet coordinated an event for the National Adoption Month in November 2015 and provides monthly trainings for adoptive families with Foster Kinship Care Education.

ACTION STEP STATUS

Solano County developed and completed a Request for Proposal process on October 24, 2012 for adoption promotion and support services. Aspiranet was selected to provide the services. The contract was negotiated and approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 12, 2013.

Aspiranet provides adoption support services for the families of Solano County. The mission of REACH Solano County is to strengthen and empower adoptive families, provide adoption information, education and support, and help parents access adoption resources. The program provides resources, education, advocacy, and crisis counseling, quarterly REACH newsletter, local resource directory; warm-line, community education, presentations and workshops on adoption issues, lending library, case management; referral and crisis intervention services, support groups (adult and teen) adoptive family social events.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

Contractor's Meetings occurred on June 4, 2015 and November 12, 2015 with all Child Welfare Services contract providers and Child Welfare Services. Information discussed included upcoming initiatives, increasing referrals and communication, OCAP reporting requirements, quarterly reporting requirements, claims and invoices and networking. In addition, managers meet regularly with contract providers to discuss client services and referral processes. Meetings occurred on 5/4/15 and 8/17/15 and a presentation was made on 1/8/15 to a CWS Section. Aspiranet provides data on a quarterly basis on the number of referrals and source of referrals, numbers and types of services provided to families and outreach efforts.

STRATEGY 4: INCREASE RELATIVE PLACEMENTS THROUGH IMPROVEMENT OF THE RELATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORTS FOR THESE CAREGIVERS, INCLUDING CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION SYSTEMS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE AND ENHANCE FAMILY FINDING EFFORTS BY ENGAGING EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS WHILE THE CHILD IS IN CARE.

ANALYSIS

Kinship Support Services:

From January 1, 2015 through November 30, Seneca Family of Agencies Kinship Navigator Program received forty-six (46) referrals from CWS, Schools, Probation and self-referrals. The agency provided thirty (30) families with full scope services which includes an assessment of family needs, ongoing case management and behavioral coaching for caregivers. The thirty families included eighty-five (85) individuals. They received forty-four (44) calls to the Warm Line with the highest need identified to be guardianship assistance, concrete resources, and inquiries for Kinship Navigator services or trainings. The program provides monthly training in collaboration with Solano College Foster Kinship Care Education to increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of relative caregivers. The program also provides peer support through monthly Family Nights. The program has some capacity to serve more families in the community and is continuing outreach efforts.

Relative Placements:

Solano County had seen an increase in the number of children residing with kin in the last few years. In September 2013 Solano County had 332 children in placement with 105 being placed with relatives. In September 2014 we had 379 children in placement with 169 residing with a relative. The percentage of children placed with relatives increased from 32% to 45% during that time. Unfortunately we have seen a recent decline. According to the October 2015 (Q2 2015) Quarterly Data Report, which captured data on July 1, 2015 of the 508 children in out of home placement 133 resided with a relative a rate of 26.2%.

The percentage of children in out of home care that are placed with relatives in Solano County is lower than the state average. There are many factors contributing to this measure including the lack of social worker resources in the relative assessment unit and the reduction of emergency relative placements, lack of support services for relatives post placement and the lack of family finding efforts.

Please see chart below that shows where our children are residing by age.

California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)

University of California at Berkeley

Children in Foster Care

Agency Type=Child Welfare

'July 1, 2015

Solano

Age Group	Placement Type										Total
	Pre-Adopt	Kin	Foster	FFA	Group	Transitional Housing	Guardian - Other	Runaway	SILP	Other (?)	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	
Under 1	.	8	3	22	.	.	.	.	.	.	33
'1-2	2	30	5	23	.	.	5	.	.	1	66
'3-5	3	30	1	27	.	.	6	.	.	.	67
'6-10	3	38	4	35	4	.	19	.	.	1	104
'11-15	1	17	5	22	24	.	43	.	.	.	112
16-17	1	9	.	10	17	.	18	7	.	2	65
18-20	.	1	1	5	3	24	3	1	15	7	61
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	10	133	19	144	48	24	94	8	15	11	508

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 2 Extract.

Program version: 2.00 Database version: 689C613B

Family Finding:

Since January, 2015 CASA has conducted family finding efforts for some of our children. Referrals are made to CASA in an attempt to identify a permanent plan for the child. Our wraparound contractor also has conducted family finding efforts for eleven children that they are serving in the program. They have engaged additional family members ranging from 1 to 18 per child. Child Welfare Services utilizes the Accurint database to conduct absent parent and relative searches. CWS will continue to explore resources to expand this effort.

ACTION STEP STATUS

Kinship Support Services:

Solano County developed and completed a Request for Proposal process on October 24, 2012 for kinship support and navigation services. Seneca was selected to provide the services. The contract was negotiated and approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 12, 2013.

Seneca Family of Agencies provides Kinship Support Services. The Kinship Navigator program aims to address the unique needs of kin caregivers by offering a comprehensive support system to support the well-being, permanency and positive development of kin families. This program provides a monthly kinship newsletter; a warm-line available for resources, support or referrals, monthly family nights to build community between kinship caregivers, and individual support

sessions for resource building, referrals, behavioral intervention and system navigation for up to 3 months.

Relative Placements:

CWS continues to be challenged around the staffing levels in the relative assessment unit and has initiated cross training effort to ensure coverage in the future. CWS has also implemented the Approved Relative Care funding to provide additional financial assistance for relatives. Relative care givers can continue to access support through the Kinship Navigator program. As previously discussed, CWS submitted an application and received funding to recruit, retain and support caregivers. CWS has identified strategies such as the return of foster care licensing responsibilities back to the county, development of foster care recruitment activities, extreme-recruitment style family finding and engagement, increased utilization of the Special Care Increment and enhanced support for relative caregivers including monetary support for transportation, clothing, extracurricular activities etc.

Family Finding:

The Relative Search and Notification policy was completed and staff were trained. The County created a business object report to track both relative notification efforts and family finding efforts. Currently the data shows forty-two (42) children with an average of 5 relative notifications each since January 1, 2015. We have identified data entry concerns and will be working in the coming months to address this issue. CWS has not begun to enter family finding efforts at this time so no data is available. The County entered into a MOU with CASA in 2013 to help locate relatives of children involved in the Dependency system with whom the children might be placed or develop permanent connections. The county wraparound provider is also conducting family finding efforts for children and youth served in the program.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

Kinship Support Services:

Contractor's Meetings occurred on June 4, 2015 and November 12, 2015 with all Child Welfare Services contract providers and Child Welfare Services. Information discussed included upcoming initiatives, increasing referrals and communication, OCAP reporting requirements, quarterly reporting requirements, claims and invoices and networking. In addition to the contractor's meetings, Seneca also met with CWS on 10/2/15 and the referral process was presented at a CWS Section meeting on 1/8/15.

Seneca provides an aggregate report, on a quarterly basis, detailing the utilization of the Warm Line including demographic information, presenting needs, specific referrals and summary of evaluations, the number of community meetings and trainings held in the past quarter, and the number of participants and summary of evaluations and the details on the one-on-one services provided including satisfaction with services and any results related to the evidence-based practice model.

Relative Placements:

Relative Placements are tracked using Safe Measures and CWS Outcome data. Data is also collected on the number of relative assessment referrals (emergency and regular) and the number of criminal exemptions processed.

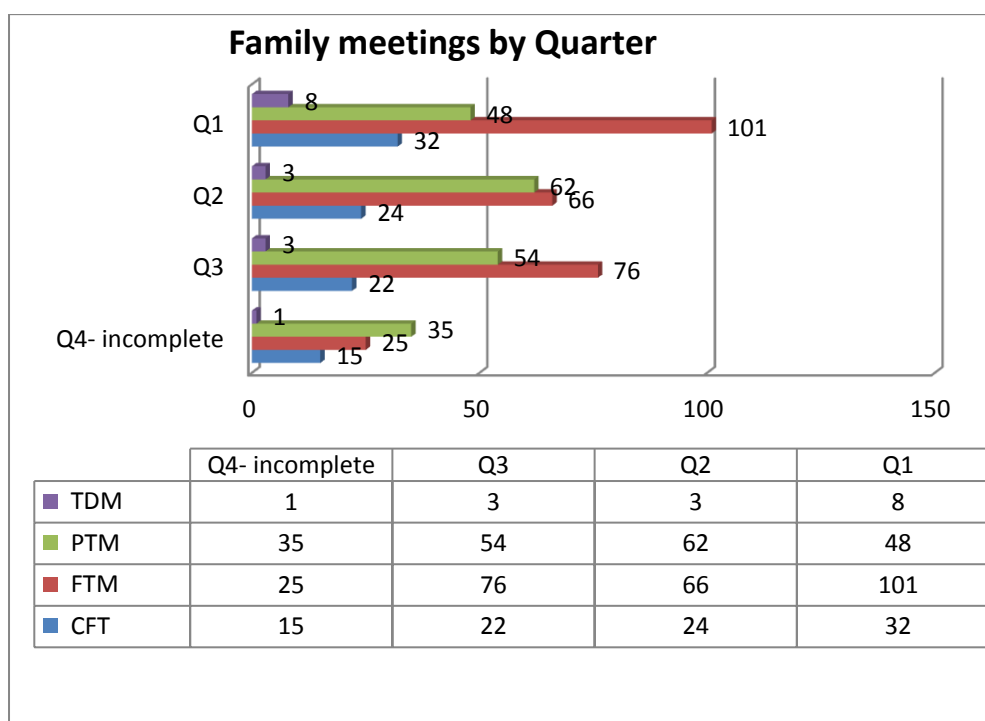
Family Finding:

CASA tracks the number of referrals for family finding and the results of their efforts.

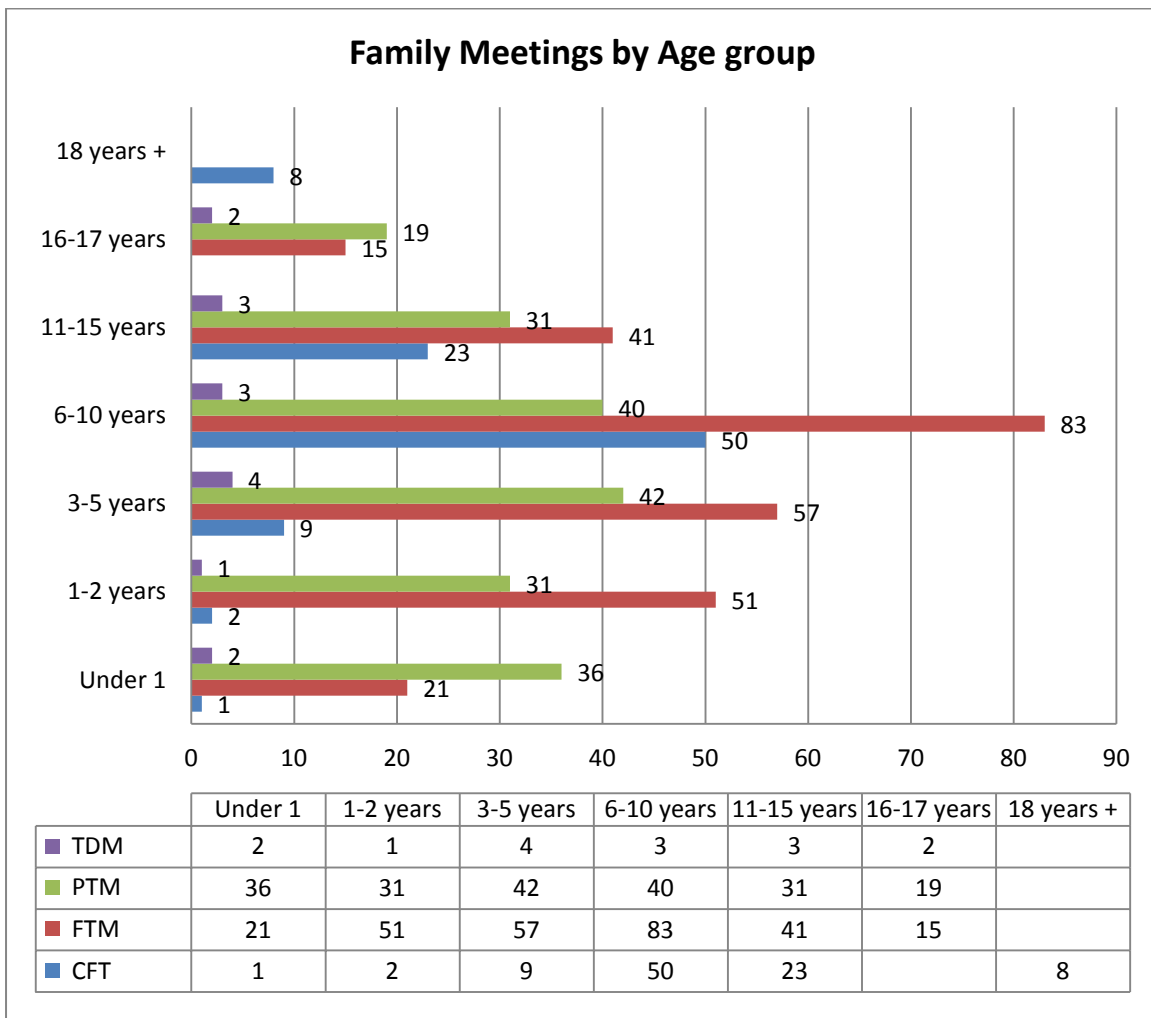
STRATEGY 5: ENSURE CONSISTENCY IN THE USE OF FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

ANALYSIS

Child Welfare Services continues to have staffing concerns which limit the Social Worker's ability to conduct regular Family Team Meetings. Family meetings include Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings, Permanency Team Meetings (PTM), Family Team Meetings and Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. Solano County completed in Quarter 1 of 2015 a meeting for a total of 189 children, in Quarter 2 a meeting for a total of 155 children and in Quarter 3 a meeting for a total of 155 children. See chart below.



Solano County has had a large number of family type meetings for children 6 to 10 years of age but has the lowest number of meetings for children 16 to 17 years of age. See chart below.



ACTION STEP STATUS

Child Welfare Services (CWS) has transitioned Team Decision Making meetings to Family Team Meetings for emergency removal cases. There was a decline in occurrences with this transition. CWS conducts Family Meetings - Permanency Team Meetings (PTM) throughout an open case to regularly identify potential options and develop a suitable permanency plan for children in out-of-home care. Solano County caseworkers hold PTMs for all children in out-of-home care prior to the dispositional hearing, which generally occurs within the first month of placement, and every six months depending on resources. With the implementation of Safety Organized Practice, CWS goal is to conduct monthly Family Team Meetings. CWS is also completing Family Team Meetings - Child and Family Team Meetings to support the mental health needs of children and youth. Meetings can be combined to support the families working on different goals.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

CWS will be running a business object report monthly to track the completion of Family Team Meetings per Social Worker.

STRATEGY 6: PROVIDE INTENSIVE PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES TO AT-RISK YOUTH NOT KNOWN TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

ANALYSIS

Fighting Back Partnership has provided a multitude of services to at risk youth residing in Vallejo. During the fiscal year 14/15 the program provided services to sixty-two (62) youth and sixty-nine (69) parents. The program utilizes a number of Evidence Based Programs including Botvin Life Skills, Nurturing Parenting, Girls Circle, Boy's Council and Jr. Achievement.

ACTION STEP STATUS

Solano County developed and completed a Request for Proposal process on October 24, 2012 for positive youth development services. The services were to provide an evidence-based positive youth development program to assist at risk youth in developing skills so that they become healthier and not become known to CWS or Probation. A provider was not selected. A new Request for Proposal was initiated and a provider began services in April 2014.

Fighting Back Partnership a Vallejo Family Resource Center provides the positive youth services. The Positive Youth Development Project offers a spectrum of positive youth development programs to strengthen and support Vallejo youth with identified needs. The Positive Youth Development Project conducts group and individual counseling, life skills groups, group mentoring, parenting education, and resource linkage, community involvement and social support.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

Contractor's Meetings occurred on June 4, 2015 and November 12, 2015 with all Child Welfare Services contract providers and Child Welfare Services. Information discussed included upcoming initiatives, increasing referrals and communication, OCAP reporting requirements, quarterly reporting requirements, claims and invoices and networking. In addition, managers met regularly with contract providers to discuss client services and referral processes.

Fighting Back Partnership provides a fiscal year report that documents outcome measures for their activities including summarized results of client satisfaction surveys completed and results related to the evidence-based or evidence-informed practice model utilized. They also provide quarterly data for the number and age range of youth served in the different programs.

PROBATION:

STRATEGY 1: IMPROVE AND INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUTH INVOLVED IN THE PROBATION SYSTEM

ANALYSIS

Probation continues to work and partner with CWS for mental health treatment services for youth. The County established an Interagency Collaborative which consists of representatives from CWS, Probation, Mental Health, and the School. The Collaborative meets weekly to staff cases and develop treatment plans for youth in higher level placements. In addition, Solano

County Mental Health has a contract with Seneca Center for WRAP services. Probation has (3) slots available for youth to receive mental health services under this contract. Three youth and their families were referred for mental health WRAP services through mental health during this reporting period. In addition, Aldea Counseling Center (Probation contract) has provided counseling to 70 youth at our Day Reporting Center, 41 youth assigned to field services, and 17 youth assigned to the Family Preservation caseload.

Through the JAIS assessment Probation identified a greater need for mental health services for Probation youth to address childhood trauma, family dynamics and criminal thinking. Therefore, Probation continues to secure contracted services through Aldea Children and Family Services to provide counseling to youth and their families in the community.

ACTION STEP STATUS

In Home Mental Health Services

In addition to the WRAP contract, Solano County Mental Health has a contract with Aldea Counseling Center to provide in home Mental Health services. Probation is able to refer (3) youth for services under this contract. During this reporting period, Probation identified and referred (0) youth for services. The assigned Probation Officer tracks and monitors the services provided to all youth within the Department's case management system (CASE).

Aldea Children and Family Services initiates an assessment of the youth to identify treatment needs upon receipt of a referral from the assigned Probation Officer. Youth may receive Trauma Focused (TF-CBT) or Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DB-CBT) individually or in a group setting. If family issues are identified, the case is transferred to the Family Preservation Program and referred for Functional Family Therapy (FFT).

Service Broker Services:

The Family Resource Center assist individuals and families in accessing community based services. Only youth and families who are not receiving supervision services through Probation qualify for services from the Family Resource Centers, as Probation does not receive PSSF funding. Services may include providing information on available resources, referring to employment and housing resources, and assisting in completing necessary applications.

Family Preservation Services:

Solano County Probation established a Family Preservation Program to reduce the recurrence and/or risk for out of home placement. A Senior Deputy Probation Officer has a caseload which consists of approximately fifteen to twenty youth. The Family Preservation program is focused on increasing the family's support system, building on the family's strengths, and reducing the likelihood of the youth entering into foster care or experiencing a recurrence of dysfunctional family issues. The Senior Deputy Probation Officer is required to provide face-to-face visits with the youth once per week, and meet with the family monthly. The Probation Officer will also make referrals to TBS or WRAP if appropriate. The Probation Officer works closely with Aldea Children and Family Services to utilize the Probation contract, for Functional Family Therapy (FFT) services for families that are in need of Family Maintenance Programming. During this reporting period 31 youth received supervision services on the Family Preservation Caseload

and 22 youth that completed the Family Preservation Program remained in the home with supportive services. This worked to support the Department's goal of Family Preservation youth remaining in the home and not being placed in out of home care.

Monitoring Services and Referrals:

Probation Officers continue to track and monitor services that are provided to youth through the Department's Case Management system (CASE) for all Probation youth. Upon completion of a review of internal and external Probation processes and services, the Department will make informed decisions on how the current programming can be enhanced or perfected to better meet the needs of all Probation youth.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

Probation completed the review of services provided to youth using the *RNR Program Tool* assessment through George Mason University. Probation is also assessing how youth move through the Juvenile Justice System "from entry to exit" as well as our local detention treatment programs in Solano County in efforts to make informed changes throughout the division.

Probation meets quarterly with CWS, Seneca, and Aldea to address the status of minors and families. Probation also meets with CWS and the FRC's to discuss programs and services with the providers and to receive updated information.

STRATEGY 2: IMPROVE AND INCREASE ACCESS TO ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG (AOD) SERVICES FOR YOUTH INVOLVED IN THE PROBATION SYSTEMS

ANALYSIS

The Probation youth are unable to access the AOD services through CWS for substance abuse treatment services for youth as Probation does not receive PSSF funding for Probation youth. Therefore, Probation Officers are trained in Interactive Journaling through the Change Companies and the Matrix Intensive Substance Abuse program. Probation also contracts with Health Right 360 to provide Substance Abuse counseling to youth on Probation.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

Probation may continue using the *RNR Program Tool* through George Mason University, as it will allow the evaluation of services provided to youth. In addition, Probation will monitor the reoccurrence of substance abuse related violations to determine if the programming provided is sufficient for these youth. Services provided to youth are documented in their individual case plan and Department's case management system.

STRATEGY 4: ENHANCE FAMILY FINDING EFFORTS AND PERMANENCY PLANNING BY ENGAGING EXTENDED FAMILIES WHILE THE YOUTH IS IN CARE

ANALYSIS

Probation provides services in the least restrictive setting. It is Probation's goal to address identified treatment needs of the youth in an effort to reduce the likelihood of entering foster care. Probation Officers meet with youth and their families based on the risk level determined by the JAIS Assessment tool. The Probation Officer also makes a concerted effort to involve the parent/guardian as well as family members in the case planning process.

Probation Officers initiate family finding at the onset of the youth entering the juvenile justice system and receiving Probation services. Throughout the period of supervision, the assigned Probation Officer updates the family tree as new information is provided. Prior to placing a youth in an out of home placement, the Placement Officer will contact family members to determine the ability of the youth to reside in the home of an extended family member, if appropriate. While the youth is in care, the Placement Officer continues to work with the youth to identify potential relative or non-relative individuals that are willing to receive the youth upon completion of treatment services.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

Probation Officers received training regarding the importance of keeping the youth connected to the family and the importance of Family Finding. Enabling Probation Officers the ability to educate family members of the importance in keeping the youth connected to the family promotes positive behaviors. Probation Officers also inform alternative family members of the supporting role of the Probation Officer as well as services that can be provided to support the family members and the youth.

To increase permanency efforts, Probation has worked with group homes to establish video chat through Skype. A major roadblock in implementation is that many families do not have the necessary equipment (home computers or smart phones) in order to Skype. In situations where the family is able to connect with the group home providers through Skype, youth have been able to video chat with family members. In other situations, group home or Probation staff will support transportation of families to the group home to visit the minor in care.

Probation has an internal policy and process for determining family finding with the youth and family starting at the intake process. All Probation Officers are required to develop and update the Family Finding tree, as needed. If the youth is 17.5 years of age and younger, and a family member is not available to take the youth upon completion of placement, the assigned Probation Officer will initiate a 241.1 W&I hearing through the Juvenile Court and request that jurisdiction of the case be transferred to CWS. If the youth is older than 17.5 years of age, the Probation Officer will explore additional services/options through AB12.

Supervising Deputy Probation Officers also conduct random caseload audits to ensure compliance with Juvenile Division Policy and Procedures, Title IVE, and case plan requirements. During this reporting period, Probation continues to review and update all of the Juvenile Division Policy and Procedures and provide updated information to all staff.

STRATEGY 7: IMPROVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND RE-INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY FOR YOUTH THROUGH LINKAGE TO ILP SERVICES

ANALYSIS

Probation focuses on eligible youth age 15 ½ and older to link them to ILP services in the county of which they are placed or upon their return home. This linkage also includes any youth who choose to participate in AB12 services. The goal is to strengthen the youth re-integration and connection into the community upon completion of care or in preparation for independent living.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND/OR MONITORING

The number of Probation youth eligible for AB12 services continues to increase. Probation Officers continue to work with these youth to assist them in obtaining housing, employment, and education services. Probation works closely with the ILP Provider (First Place for Youth) to ensure that all eligible youth are referred to appropriate services and supports. In addition, Probation Officers receive annual training regarding the linkage of youth to ILP services that are available through the service provider.

Probation Officers assigned to the juvenile placement unit work with identified youth and make referrals to appropriate community based services. Prior to the youth exiting a group home placement, the Probation Officer will also notify the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) Transitional Aide to provide the youth and family with assistance with school enrollment. This reduces the time that the youth is awaiting a date to return to the school in their local district.

OBSTACLES AND BARRIERS TO FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES:

As previously discussed, Child Welfare Services has continued to experience a high turnover in the Social Worker III classification. The turnover was seen across programs and for a variety of reasons including leaving the field, accepting other positions in the Department and to be closer to their residence. Solano County primarily recruits and hires MSW IVE students from universities in the Bay Area and Sacramento. Fourteen (14) Social Worker IIIs resigned in 2015. Out of this number, five (5) Social Workers had been employed less than 2 years and four (4) Social Workers less than 4 years. Recently we negotiated an “assignment pay” for Social Worker IIIs to address the complexity of the work within Child Welfare Services. Child Welfare Services has also seen a turnover in the Social Services Supervisor classification. We currently have 14 Social Services Supervisors with seven (7) Supervisors employed less than two years. This results in only 50% of our supervisors in Solano County with over two years. We currently have two supervisor vacancies including the training supervisor. The experience Supervisors have also changed positions which has added to the time needed to learn new programs. CWS has also been unable to hire other critical positions such as a Program Manager and a Project Manager which also have a direct impact on our practice and performance.

Probation:

Probation has experienced some difficulty in meeting the goal regarding youth in care 3 years or longer. On occasion, Probation will need to place youth in care for longer than 3 years in order for specific treatment needs to be addressed. Typically the youth in this category need to complete sex offender treatment. Another barrier is that many of these youth cannot return to the residence where the victim resides which causes the youth to remain in a foster care placement. Probation Officers work with youth who are approaching the age of 18 and/or AB12 eligible to assist in obtaining independent living skills.

Although the number of youth under Probation supervision continues to decrease, the youth that are being placed on Probation have a higher risk to reoffend, have committed serious delinquent acts, and have significant treatment needs.

The Probation Department continues to explore ways to increase family reunification efforts with youth that are placed in out of home care. In some cases, the circumstances of the delinquent act and the family discord often make reunification difficult. In addition, maintaining communication between the youth and the parent/guardian while they are in out of home placement is also difficult as parents/guardians may not have the ability and/or desire to travel the distance for family group home visits.

PROMISING PRACTICES/ OTHER SUCCESSES**CHILD WELFARE SERVICES:**

Solano County Child Welfare Services has continued to expand the use Safety Organized Practice (SOP). SOP is family centered with a focus on behavior change, and not solely on services. The three major focuses are engagement, critical thinking, and enhancing safety of the youth and families. SOP is utilized in all program areas in Solano County and supported in supervision. One hundred percent of the Social Services Supervisors over program are trained. Social Workers use the tools during Family Meetings, interviewing children, investigation and court documentation and descriptions at the Hotline. Currently, out of 57 Social Workers, 35 Social Workers are fully trained, 11 have almost completed training and 11 are new workers.

PROBATION:

The Probation Department currently provides supervision services for approximately 500 youth. In efforts to enhance the Probation Officers engagement skills with youth and families, all Juvenile Probation Officers have been trained in Skills for Offender Assessment and Responsivity in New Goals (SOARING2). SOARING 2 is designed to assist professionals in building skills associated with using evidence-based practices for the effective management of offenders to effect change. Probation Officers will also receive training in Effective Practices for Correctional Supervision (EPICS), which teaches the principles of effective intervention skills in working with youth. Probation Officers received enhanced training regarding Case Plan development and review. The Juvenile Services Division uses an internal list of service brokers available in Solano County that provide support and services to youth and families. Probation Officers also utilize a shared service provider list developed by Child Welfare Services (CWS).

OUTCOME MEASURES NOT MEETING STATE/NATIONAL STANDARDS

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Priority Outcome Measure:

For the new Federal CFSR 3, Permanency Measure P2-measures children in care on the first day of the 12-month period that had been in care between 12 and 23 months that were discharged to permanency within 12 months? The National Standard is 43.6%

Baseline Performance:

According to the October 2012 (Q2 2012) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, of the 75 children who were in care 12-23 months, 28 children exited to permanency. This is a 37.3% rate of permanency within 12 months.

Target Improvement Goal:

The County will improve performance on this measure to be at or above 43.6%.

Current Performance:

According to the October 2015 (Q2 2015) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, of the 90 children who were in care 12-23 months, 30 children exited to permanency. This is a 33.3% rate of permanency within 12 months.

Data Analysis:

Solano County is experiencing increased length of reunification services. Thirty-four (34) children ages one to ten years of age are still in care two years later.

California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)

University of California at Berkeley

California Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau

Permanency for children in foster care

Children in foster care first day of 12-month period: Exit status at 12 months

Time in Care: 12 to 23 months

Agency Type: Child Welfare

Jul 1, 2014 to Jun 30, 2015

Solano

	Age Group						Total
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Exited to reunification	.	2	4	4	3	.	13
Exited to adoption	.	7	2	3	1	.	13
Exited to guardianship	.	2	.	2	.	.	4
Exited to non-permanency	2	2
Still in care	.	13	9	12	11	13	58
Total	.	24	15	21	15	15	90

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 2 Extract.

DRAFT Program version: 2014.11.30 Database version: 25AUG2015:13:11:11

Solano County has been below the National goal since 2010 as seen in the chart below. There was some improvement in FY13/14.

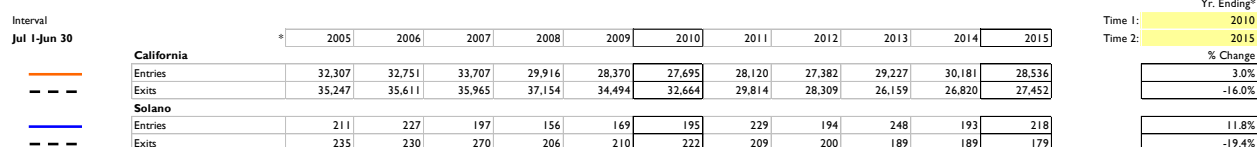
	From:	7/1/2010	7/1/2011	7/1/2012	7/1/2013	7/1/2014
	To:	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	6/30/2013	6/30/2014	6/30/2015
Children with exit to permanency (%)		50.0	37.3	35.2	45.8	33.3
National Goal (%)		43.6	43.6	43.6	43.6	43.6
In care 12-23 months (n)		50	75	71	72	90
Children with exit to permanency (n)		25	28	25	33	30
National Standard (n)		22	33	31	32	40

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 2 Extract.

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/P2.aspx

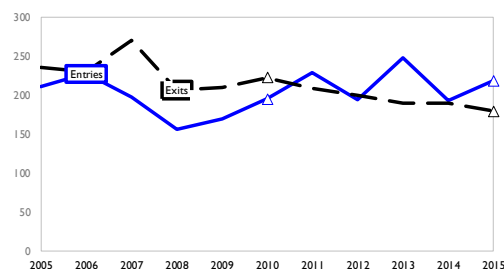
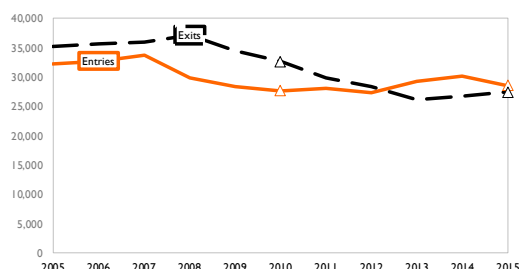
Solano County is also seeing more entries into foster care and a slowing of exits, as seen in the chart below.

3. Children Entering and Exiting Child Welfare Supervised Foster Care



California: Children Entering and Exiting Foster Care

Solano: Children Entering and Exiting Foster Care



Notes: Data are limited to children in foster care for eight days or more. Children entering or exiting care more than once during the period are counted once. These data include child-welfare-supervised foster children (and exclude those supervised by probation and other agencies). An exit is defined as the end of a foster care placement episode, not necessarily termination of jurisdiction. See endnotes for more information.

*Listed years represent end year of interval. For example, interval jul 1-jun 30 and year 2006 represents data from jul 1, 2005-jun 30, 2006.

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Entries.aspx for Entries

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Exits.aspx for Exits

The data shows that youth that are in care longer have a harder time exiting to permanency. Of the 30 children/youth ages 11 to 17, only 4 exited to permanency. The older youth are choosing to remain in care to receive non-minor dependent benefits when they turn 18 years of age. As of December 4, 2015, CWS had 51 young adults taking advantage of the Extended Foster Care program. The majority of these young adults are choosing to transition into Supervised Independent Living Placement or Transitional Housing Programs. They are working on education and vocational goals, and further building their adult support systems. Case-management is geared towards better outcomes and increased self-sufficiency.

In recent years, Solano County has focused on Intensive Family Reunification Services. Although we have trained our new social workers on concurrent planning, we continue to work towards operationalizing concurrent plans earlier as to improve our outcomes in this area.

Solano County has increased Adoption staffing resources to support concurrent planning. It is hoped that with the identification of a viable concurrent plan, the time to adoption or guardianship will be reduced. More assessment is needed to fully assess this measure. Solano County is working on the development of a Continuous Quality Improvement process including using both qualitative case reviews and quantitative data to evaluate and refine practice.

Priority Outcome Measure:

For the new Federal CFSR 3, Permanency Measure P4- Re-entry measures all children who entered foster care in the 12-month who discharged within 12 months to reunification or guardianship that re-enter foster care within 12 months? The National Standard is 8.3%

Baseline Performance:

According to the October 2012 (Q2 2012) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 of the 58 children with exits to reunification or guardianship, 4 children re-entered within 12 months. This is a 6.9% rate of re-entries.

Target Improvement Goal:

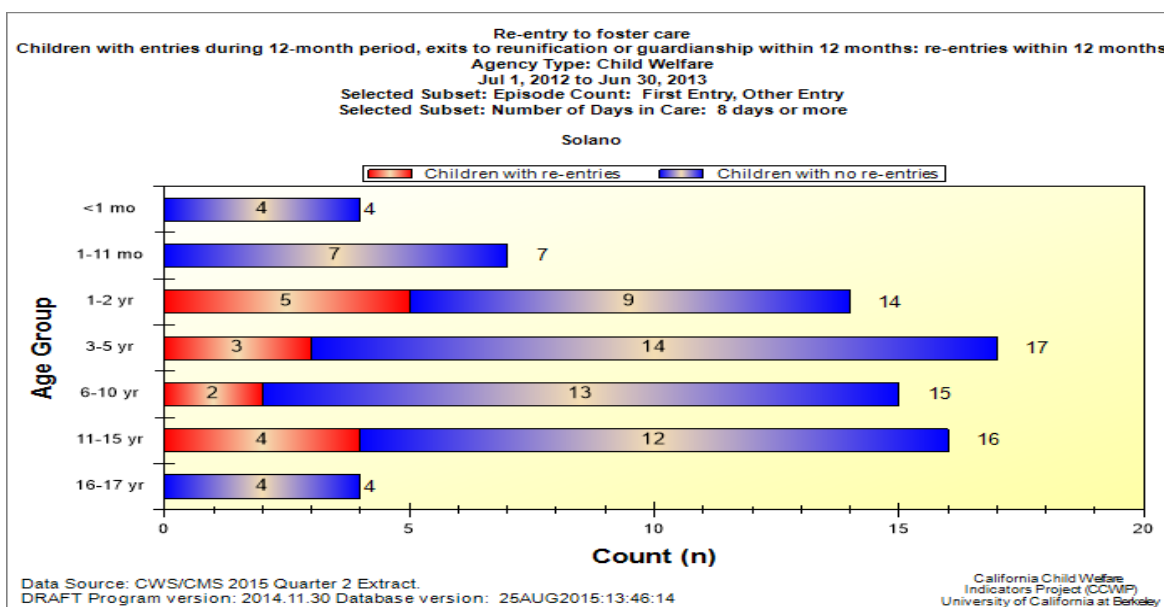
The County will improve performance on this measure to be at or below 8.3%.

Current Performance:

According to the October 2015 (Q2 2015) Quarterly Data Report, which measured data between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, of the 77 children with exits to reunification or guardianship, 14 children re-entered within 12 months. This is an 18.2% rate of re-entries.

Data Analysis:

The data below shows that the highest rate of reentry is for children 1 to 2 years of age.



Solano County showed a sharp decrease in reentries in FY09/10 but has seen a steady decline since that reporting period with the highest number in FY12/13. Solano County had been performing at or better than the state average until this reporting period. Please see chart below.

From:	7/1/2008	7/1/2009	7/1/2010	7/1/2011	7/1/2012
To:	6/30/2009	6/30/2010	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	6/30/2013
Children with re-entries (%)	26.2	6.9	9.1	11.8	18.2
National Goal (%)	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Children with entries, exits to reunification or guardianship (n)	65	58	110	76	77
Children with re-entries (n)	17	4	10	9	14
National Standard (n)	6	5	10	7	7

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 2 Extract.

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/P4.aspx

As previously discussed, Solano County is working on the development of a Continuous Quality Improvement process including using both qualitative case reviews and quantitative data to evaluate and refine practice. Solano County is concerned that a lack of supportive plans following dismissal of court jurisdiction is contributing to the reentry rates of children to care. With the utilization of Safety Organized Practice, prior to the case being closed, Solano County is working with families to identify and ensure family support networks are in place.

PROBATION:

Outcome Measure: P.1 (Previously C1.3) Exits to Permanency (24 months in care)

National Standard: 30.3%

Performance Standard: 0%

Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year, what percent were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year and prior to turning 18?

Current Performance:

According to the October Quarterly Data Report (Quarter 2 FY July 1, 2014- June 30, 2015), Probation did not meet the National Performance Standard. Probation had one youth in care longer than 24 months. This youth was unable to return home however, he did elect to participate in AB12 services.

Outcome Measure: Placement Stability P 5 (Previously C4.2)

National Standard: 65.4%

Performance Standard: 60 %

Of all children served in foster care during the year that were in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months (Measure C4.2), what percentage had two or fewer placement settings?

Current Standard:

According to the October 2014 Quarterly Data Report (Quarter 2 FY2014-15) of the 10 youth in placement, 6 youth were in less than 2 placements and 4 youth were in 2 or more placements. Seven of the 10 youth were under 15 years of age, 5 of which remained in the initial placement. Three youth were 16 years of age or older, 2 of which required a second placement setting. At times, younger youth need a period of adjustment before they settle in and adjust to receive services. Younger youth can also cause issues with older youth in the group home setting thus leading to the need for a second placement. It appears that the older youth are more inclined to accept the requirements and take advantage of the programming and services provided.

PERCENT	Age Group						All
	Under 1	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-15	16-17	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<=2 placements	71.4	33.3	60.0
>2 placements (prior)	0.0	.	0.0
>2 placements (recent)	28.6	66.7	40.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 2 Extract.

Outcome Measure: Placement Stability 2F Timely Monthly Caseworker Visits

National Standard: 90%

Performance Standard: 87.6%

These reports calculate the percentage of children in placement who are visited by caseworkers. Each child in placement for an entire month must be visited at least once. The report summarizes monthly data by 12-month periods/intervals.

Current Standard:

According to the October 2014 Quarterly Data Report (Quarter 2 FY 2014-15), Probation had 43 youth in group home placements. Probation was slightly below the National Standard in meeting monthly group home visits. It is noted that 3 youth absconded from placement which affected the Probation Officer's ability to make the monthly contact as the youth's whereabouts were unknown.

Age Group	Children in Out-of-Home Placement	Placement Months	Months with Visits	Percent with Visits	Months with Visits in the Residence	Percent with Visits in the Residence
	n	n	n	%	n	%
Under 1	.	.	.	.	.	.
1-2	.	.	.	.	.	.
3-5	.	.	.	.	.	.
6-10	.	.	.	.	.	.
11-15	15	87	71	81.6	70	98.6
16-17	28	114	105	92.1	104	99.0
Total	43	201	176	87.6	174	98.9

Placement Type	Children in Placement Entire Month	Children Visited	Percent Visited	Children Visited in Residence	Percent Visited in Residence
	n	n	%	n	%
Pre-Adopt	.	.	.	.	.
Kin	.	.	.	.	.
Foster	.	.	.	.	.
FFA	.	.	.	.	.
Court Specified	.	.	.	.	.
Group	12	12	100.0	12	100.0
Shelter	.	.	.	.	.
Transitional Housing	.	.	.	.	.
Guardian-Dependent	.	.	.	.	.
Runaway	3	.	.	.	.
Trial Home Visit	.	.	.	.	.
SILP	.	.	.	.	.
Total	15	12	80.0	12	100.0

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 2 Extract.

Placement officers strive to meet with youth monthly while they are in the group home placement. During monthly visits, the placement officer meets with the group home staff to discuss the progress made toward meeting the case plan goals. The Placement Officer also meets with parents/guardians to provide updates and develop the transition plan in preparation for reunification.

State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES:

Pathways to Well-Being

A Class Action Lawsuit (Katie A.) was settled statewide which requires timely access to mental health services for children in the Child Welfare system. It calls for a redesign of the interface between Child Welfare and Mental Health to ensure that children are protected, services are needs driven, strength based and family focused, family voice is assured throughout the process, services are culturally respectful and blend formal and informal supports, services are delivered with a multiagency collaborative approach and individualized and children have permanency and stability in their living situation.

Solano County has worked hard to develop processes to meet this mission. We have continued with quarterly surveys to all case carrying SW to ensure that every open case is surveyed to determine whether or not they meet survey criteria. We rolled out a process for the social workers to complete a mental health screening tool for all children entering the system. Mental Health Services contracted with Seneca to offer the PACT program which can provide Katie A type services to group home children out of county and hopefully will be expanded to other out of county children in the future.

As of 11/17/15, we had 95 total subclass members:

58 children were placed in Solano County, 8 residing in group homes

- 45 are currently receiving subclass services
- 4 are in the process of being offered subclass services
- 9 have declined service

35 children are placed outside of Solano County, 25 residing in group homes

- 23 have been referred to contract provider for out of county subclass services
- 4 are on hold or recently moved out of county
- 6 reside outside of the 90 mile radius for contractor services
- 2 declined services

2 children are on runaway status

Case Reviews

Child Welfare Services is required to develop a Case Review process in accordance with instructions from the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Solano County has established a qualitative case review process for the purpose of examining practices and ensuring conformity with Title IV-E and Title IV-B requirements. Case reviews began October 1, 2015. Case reviews now also include a quality assurance function in addition to an extensive online review process and in-depth interviews with individuals involved in the case plan for each case selected for review. Solano County will be requesting an additional position to perform these duties.

Continuum of Care Reform

Child Welfare Service is challenged with implementing the recommendations of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). Solano County is preparing for the mandatory implementation of the Resource Family Approval Process including bringing the licensing of foster homes back from the state. Child Welfare Services will need additional staff to perform these functions including the new Resource Family Approval Assessment for relatives, foster family homes and adoptive homes. As a result of the CCR efforts a specific recommendation was made to strengthen foster parent, resource family and relative caregiver retention, recruitment, training requirements and strategies. CWS has submitted a plan to request funding to support expansion of emergency relative assessments, increased family finding efforts for children entering the system and for youth residing in group homes and supports for foster and relative caregivers.

Approved Relative Caregiver Funding

Effective June 1, 2015, Solano County implemented the ARC Funding Option Program. ARC funds were allotted to participating counties based on the maximum number of approved relative caregiver placements of eligible children in the county as of July 1, 2014. Solano County had approximately 41 foster children who were non-federally eligible placed with approved relatives on July 1, 2014. Prior to ARC Program implementation, non-federally eligible children placed with approved relatives were identified. Approximately 31 children were identified and ARC outreach letters, informational pamphlets, and ARC applications were mailed to the approved relative caregivers. As of September 30, 2015, we have received a total of 26 ARC applications, 11 of which are from approved relative caregivers living outside of Solano County. As of December 4, 2015 Solano County has thirty-four (34) CalWORKs/ARC cases that have been granted. Ongoing outreach efforts continue when children are placed in approved relative placements and denied AFDC-FC funding due to non-federal eligibility determinations.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

In February 2015, Solano County initiated the formation of a CSEC Steering Committee. That committee is comprised of members from the following agencies: Child Welfare, Probation, Mental Health, Public Health, Juvenile Courts, Substance Abuse, Education, Attorneys, County Counsel, Placement Providers, Law Enforcement, Direct Service Providers, Advocates and

Other Community Partners. The Steering Committee Members have been meeting regularly since its initiation and are slated to meet on an on-going basis as it shores up its lead role surrounding the CSEC protocols. The expectation of Solano County's CSEC Steering Committee (led by CWS) is to partner with community agencies and invested parties to collectively stress the importance of providing a continuum of care for CSEC with a wide-range of services made available to them across a number of agencies. These broad-based services are intended to fully address the spectrum of needs for CSEC (current and at risk children) and assist them as they attempt to exit commercial sexual exploitation. Solano County Child Welfare has been utilizing a single screening tool to identify open Child Welfare cases with youth who are currently CSEC or at risk for those activities. The screening tool is designed to capture whether or not youth are at low risk, moderate risk, or high/active risk for CSEC. Those youth determined to be at low risk for CSE are essentially "screened out" and those youth in the moderate or high/active risk category are "screened in" for further assessment. As a portion of the Child Welfare Division CSEC protocol, all youth are initially screened starting at the age of 10 up until the age of 18 (starting at Detention or Disposition) and will be re-screened every six-months until dependency terminates.

PROBATION:

In 2011, Child Welfare and Probation began to meet to discuss the implementation of AB12 in Solano County. In addition, Probation has continued to explore ways to increase the number of participants receiving both ILP and AB12 services. Probation agreed to provide AB12 services to youth outlined in California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 602, and Child Welfare Services agreed to provide services to youth that are outlined in California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 300. Moreover, CWS and Probation meet quarterly with the County's ILP provider to ensure that services are being provided. During this reporting period, Probation served 24 new youth in out of home care and 15 youth participated in Extended Foster Care as Non Minor Dependent's.

There is a small subset of Probation youth who are already living in the home of relatives prior to coming to the attention of the Probation department. Most of these youth remain/return to the relative home with parents' permission. Currently Probation has one youth in foster care and one youth in a Relative Home Placement. Unfortunately, many of the relatives are no longer willing to continue care of youth due to behavioral issues and limited funding resources. It is Probation's intent to remedy these concerns through the Foster and Relative Caregiver Recruitment Plan by instituting a Relative Home Approval program that would increase the number of relative homes and resources to a higher level of care. It would also expand family maintenance for our youth by supporting connectedness, permanency, and stability for Relative and NREFM (including the reunification process). Should Probation fail to receive the grant funding, we still plan to increase our number of Relative placements within the limits of our allocated Juvenile budget.